

Message Text

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20/61

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 H-01 SR-02 ORM-03

IO-03 SCA-01 VO-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 DRC-01 /055 W

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R 141523Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5644

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14202

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 2 LINES 9 AND 10

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, SREF, SY, LE

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES IN
LEBANON

1. AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED COMMERCIAL CABLE DATED
DEC. 12 FROM SENATOR J. GLENN BEALL ADVISING THAT
MR. SOLOMON GADEH OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, HAS REQUESTED
HIS ASSSTANCE IN FACILITATING EXIT FROM LEBANON AND
TRAVEL TO U.S. (UNDER PAROLE PROVISIONS OF IMMIGRATION
ACT) OF GADEH'S FATHER, MOTHER, FOUR SISTERS AND ONE
BROTHER. CABLE STATED THAT GADEH FAMILY ESCAPED IN
AUGUST FROM SYRIA TO BEIRUT, WHERE THEY JOINED OTHER
SYRIAN JEWS WHO ARE AWAITING GOL PERMISSION TO LEAVE
LEBANON. IT NOTED THAT THE BROTHER, ISAAC GADEH, WAS
ONE OF TWO YOUTHS WHO "DISAPPEAREDJB IN BEIRUT NOV. 11
(BEIRUT 14087). SENATOR BEALL REQUESTED EMBASSY FURNISH
HIM WHATEVER INFO IS AVAILABLE RE ISAAC GADEH'S WHERE-
ABOUTS, AND ALSO REPORT STATUS OF EFFORTS TO ASSIST
SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES OBTAIN EXIT PERMITS TO LEAVE
LEBANON. HE ALSO

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ASKED AMBASSADOR MEET WITH SOLOMON

GADEH DURING LATTER'S PLANNED VISIT TO BEIRUT LATER THIS MONTH.

2. REQUEST DEPT. TRANSMIT TO SENATOR BEALL, ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, FOLLOWING REPLY FROM AMBASSADOR:

QTE DEAR SENATOR BEALL: IN RESPONSE TO YOUR CABLE OF DEC. 12, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE GADEH FAMILY IS AMONG 93 SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES NOW IN LEBANON AWAITING THE COMPLETION OF ARRANGEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT JOINTLY BETWEEN THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND THE LEBANESE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY FOR DESTINATIONS ABROAD. THE PROCESS BY WHICH THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE HAS BEEN PROTRACTED DUE TO THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE PROBLEM OF LEBANON'S ARRANGING FOR THE DEPARTURE ABROAD OF ILLEGAL ENTRANTS FROM NEIGHBORING SYRIA; TO UNFORESEEN COMPLICATIONS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE ARAB-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES IN OCTOBER; AND TO AN UNFORTUNATE LEAK THAT CALLED ATTENTION TO THEIR PRESENCE HERE. DESPITE THE DELAY,

I UNDERSTAND THAT ARANGEMENTS FOR THEIR DEPARTURE ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN UTMOST SECRECY, AND WE HOPE THEY CAN SOON BEGIN TO LEAVE LEBANON.

QTE WITH RESPECT TO THE DISAPPEARANCE HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO OF MR. GADEH'S BROTHER AND ANOTHER YOUNG MAN, I REGRET TO REPORT THAT JOINT EFFORTS BY THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY HAVE SO FAR FAILED TO UNCOVER ANY TRACE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM. SHOULD ANY INFORMATION COME TO LIGHT, I WILL REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM YOU IMMEDIATELY.

QTE THE QUESTION OF ALLOWING THE GADEH FAMILY TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE PAROLE PROVISIONS OF THE IMMEGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT IS ONE WHICH LIES PRIMARILY WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. I ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THIS EMBASSY WILL RECOMMEND TO JUSTICE THAT THE

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GADEHS BE PERMITTED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THEIR DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON.

QTE I WILL BE HAPPY TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH MR. GADEH WHEN HE VISITS LEBANON LATER THIS MONTH. SINCERELY, WILLIAM B. BUFFUM, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.
UNQTE

3. REQUEST DEPT ALSO INFORM SENATOR BEALL THAT DR. ATIYEH, HEAD OF LEBANESE JEWISH COMMUNITY, WISHES AVOID ALL RPT ALL PUBLICITY CONCERNING PRESENCE IN AND POSSIBLE DEPARTURE FROM LEBANON OF SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES. HE ALSO WISHES AVOID INTERVENTION BY OTHER GOVTS AND PRIVATE PERSONS IN HIS DEALINGS WITH GOL ON BEHALF THESE REFUGEES -- DEALINGS WHICH HAVE PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS IN PAST AND WHICH HE IS CONFIDENT WILL DO SO AGAIN WITH CONTINUED PATIENCE. (DR. ATIYEH CONVEYED THESE VIEWS IN LETTER TO ABE DWEK NOV 23 AND REAFFIRMED THEM TO EMBOFF DEC 13.) WE SHALL DO ALL WE CAN TO ASSIST MR. GADEH WITH CASE OF HIS BROTHER AND OTHER SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES, SO LONG AS WE BELIEVE OUR EFFORTS NOT LIKELY BE HARMFUL TO INTERESTS OK THOSE FOR WHOSE WELFARE WE ARE CONCERNED. BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE AND DISCREET SOUNDINGS DEC. 13 WITH KEY SOURCE IN GOL, WE SHARE DR. ATIYEH'S BELIEF THAT PUBLICITY AND DIRECT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT, AND PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE, FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE SYRIAN REFUGEES TO DEPART VIA LEBANON, RATHER THAN ACCELERATE THE PROCESS.

4. ON BASIS OF AMBASSADOR'S REPLY TO SENATOR BEALL AND OTHER INFO REPORTED ABOVE, WE HOPE DEPT. WILL BE ABLE RESTRAIN THOSE WHO APPEAR EAGER MAKE PUBLIC ISSUE OUT OF PROBLEM OF DEPARTURE OF SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES FROM LEBANON. THIS IS VERY SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR GOL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF STRONG SYRIAN FEELINGS ABOUT PUBLICITY AND FACT THAT SOME OF REFUGEES APPEAR TO BE AVOIDING COMPULSORY SYRIAN MILITARY SERVICE. BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXIT VISAS, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT14202
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731225/aaaaasmm.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN SYRIAN JEWISH REFUGEES IN LEBANON
TAGS: SOCI, SREF, SY, LE, (GADEH, SOLOMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005